

U.S. PASSPORTS & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



How You Can Help Your Constituents: Submitting Citizenship and ID Evidence

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Agenda

1. Trivia
2. Passport Basics
 - Burden of Proof
 - Citizenship
 - Identity
 - Exemplars
3. The Staffer's Role in the Passport Process
4. Q&A
5. Office Hours



Trivia – Question #1

In what year did it become commonplace for Americans travelling abroad to use a U.S. passport?

- A. 1776
- B. 1941
- C. 1861



Trivia – Question #2

How many languages appear on the data page of a U.S. passport?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 4



Trivia – Question #3

How many countries can you travel to visa-free on a U.S. passport?

- A. 218
- B. 177
- C. 174



Burden of Proof

Balance of Probabilities Approach

Preponderance of evidence – The evidence of a fact presented suggests that the fact is more likely to be true than not true. (This is the standard we most often employ.)

Clear and convincing – The evidence of a fact presented suggests that the fact is substantially more likely to be true than not true.

Beyond a reasonable doubt – The evidence of a fact presented suggests that the fact is almost certainly true.



Citizenship

We look for documents that come from *legitimate issuing authorities* that have security features like raised seals, watermarks, etc., which have not been altered or damaged.

Most common documents:

- Certified Birth Certificate
- Previous U.S. Passport/Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship

If applicant *does not* submit satisfactory evidence of identity or citizenship, we will request additional evidence that would prove:

- Claim of citizenship through naturalization of parents
- Claim of citizenship through birth abroad to at least one U.S. citizen parent
- Claim of citizenship through adoption by U.S. citizen parent(s)



Identity

What makes an identity document acceptable

- Readily identifies the applicant
- Contains a photograph
- Is not altered or damaged in any way

Most common forms of Primary ID:

- Valid U.S. Passport
- Valid Driver's License
- Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship

Common forms of Secondary ID:

- Social Security Card
- Voter Registration Card
- Employee Work ID/Student ID



Staffer's Role



Why a constituent might contact your office and how we can work together to resolve inquiries?

- **National Passport Information Center (NPIC)**
 - “Under review”?
 - “Application pending”?
- **What can you do to assist your constituent?**
- **How can we help speed up the process?**



Good Resources

- travel.state.gov
- National Passport Information Center (NPIC): 1-877-487-2778
(TDD: 1-888-874-7793) NPIC@state.gov
- DS-11
- Public Facing 7 FAM 1300

